

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL ACTION

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A1

relatively fragile material, gypsum board, is attached. One cannot easily, and in many cases may not wish to attach the layer of wall covering directly to the wall or studs behind the rigid foam paneling. For example, when attaching interior wall covering to a concrete wall, particularly an exterior concrete wall, it is especially bad to have fasteners such as nails or screws penetrating the wall-covering passing through the rigid foam layer, and being embedded in the concrete wall. Such fasteners provide a simple channel for heat loss and for vapor or water penetration to the outer surface of the wall covering.

Substitute the following for paragraph 3 on page 7:

A2

On the outer surfaces of panel 10 are two thin reinforcing sheets 20 and 22. The first of these, sheet 20, extends completely across the side of the rigid foam sheet proximate to the reinforcing strips. The second of these, sheet 22, extends completely across and covers the entire surface of the opposing side of the sheet.

Substitute the following for paragraph 3 on page 10:

A3

In step 49A, adhesive-dispensing nozzles 50, 52 apply adhesive to reinforcing sheet material being drawn off two rolls 54 and 56. Rigid foam sheet 12 with reinforcing strips 18 inserted is then moved between these rolls and the adhesive-coated reinforcing sheet material is unrolled and applied to the opposing surfaces of the rigid foam sheet 12.

Substitute the following for paragraph 1 on page 12:

A4

Once the composite structure reaches the end 94 of the supports, the foam has cured and the panel is substantially rigid. This continuous sheet of paneling is then cut to discrete lengths by a flying cutter 96, disposed after the end 94 of the supports.